

Application No. 09/786,435

Filed: March 20, 2001

TC Art Unit: 1645

Confirmation No.: 1324

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method for ~~preventing neuronal apoptosis by inhibiting the biological activity of transforming growth factor- β 1 (TGF- β 1), transforming growth factor β 2 (TGF- β 2) and/or transforming growth factor β 3 (TGF- β 3) on damaged neurons in a cerebral disorder~~treating damaged neurons in a patient, said damaged neurons caused by a cerebral disorder, said method comprising the steps of:

providing a patient having damaged neurons, said damaged neurons caused by a cerebral disorder; and

administering to said patient a therapeutically effective amount of a compound that inhibits the biological activity of transforming growth factor- β 1 (TGF- β 1), transforming growth factor- β 2 (TGF- β 2) and/or transforming growth factor- β 3 (TGF- β 3) on damaged neurons in a cerebral disorder, thereby treating said damaged neurons in said patient with a first compound that prevents by preventing neuronal apoptosis by inhibiting the biological activity of TGF- β 1, TGF- β 2 and/or TGF- β 3 on said damaged neurons.

2-4. (Cancelled)

5-8. (Cancelled)

9-13. (Cancelled)

14. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said first compound is selected from the group consisting of an inhibitor of TGF- β 1, TGF- β 2 and/or TGF- β 3; an antagonist to TGF- β 1, TGF- β 2

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and/or TGF- β 3; and a composition altering TGF- β 1, TGF- β 2 and/or TGF- β 3.

15. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 14, wherein said first compound is selected from the group consisting of an antibody directed to TGF- β 1, TGF- β 2 and/or TGF- β 3; and a composition having a binding site of a TGF- β 1, TGF- β 2 and/or TGF- β 3 receptor.

16. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said method further comprises treating said patient with a second compound for disintegrating blood clots.

17. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16, wherein said second compound is selected from the group consisting of urokinase, thrombin, and tissue plasminogen activator.

18. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 or 17, wherein said ~~first~~ excompound or said second compound is administered intravenously, orally or intracerebrally.